Washington State Department of Transportation

SOUNDTRANSIT

I-5 – South 317th Street HOV Direct Access Project Update

Edition 13, November 30, 2004

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Construction Update

Crews finished installing the shoring system and started forming the foundation for the second bridge support at S. 317th Street. They're removing the shoring system behind the retaining wall south of the bridge abutment on the west side of I-5.

On the southbound I-5 lanes, crews are excavating and grading the area to prepare to place the new pavement. They are using a Global Positioning System (GPS) to guide the elevation of the grader blade. (See below for more information on how we use GPS.)

Workers are still building the retaining wall north of the bridge abutment, crushing the old southbound I-5 pavement at the crusher plant near the S. 320th Street exit ramp, and working on the permanent electrical system.

Sound Transit is making progress on the new Federal Way Transit Center to the west of the freeway. The foundation piles are all installed, and crews have already built walls and columns for the first level of the parking structure. They're currently installing the floor of the first level, and have begun constructing a storm water detention vault on the site.

The I-5 – S. 317th direct access project is currently 34 percent complete. To view construction photos, visit http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5_S317th_DirectAccess/photos.

Nighttime I-5 Lane Closures

Up to three lanes of northbound I-5 near S. 320th Street will be closed each weeknight beginning this Tuesday night, Nov. 30. Closures will begin each night at 7 p.m., and all lanes will reopen by 5 a.m. each morning. These closures are necessary for crews to do pavement improvements.

Illegal to Change Lanes in Temporary Roadway

Please remember not to change lanes in the temporary roadway. This will keep you and other drivers safe as you pass through the construction zone.

Global Positioning System (GPS)

You've probably heard of Global Positioning System (GPS) – many new vehicles have this technology to help drivers navigate. How does it work? Basically, there are 24 satellites associated with this system that orbit the earth and send out radio signals. A GPS receiver calculates the time difference for signals from different satellites to reach the receiver, and uses this information to determine the exact latitude and longitude of the receiver.

As mentioned above, crews are using GPS to guide the elevation of the grader blade as they are grading southbound I-5 in Federal Way to prepare it for new pavement. WSDOT also uses GPS to guide plows through snow-covered roads.

WSDOT is in the midst of a large project that is taking a GPS inventory of all our state highways. This project is scheduled for completion in 2007. Once completed, we will be able to locate the precise position of each roadway on the earth's surface and can establish a GPS baseline in both directions for each highway. This baseline will allow such roadside features as guardrails and signs to be inventoried and located with sub-meter accuracy.

Highway Advisory Radio Updates

Don't forget to tune your radio to **AM 1520** in Federal Way for new project updates every week. If you've listened to our radio messages, please let us know what you think by e-mailing Laura Johnson at JohnsoL@wsdot.wa.gov.